

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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USIA-15 ACDA-10 SAM-01 OMB-01 CIEP-02 COME-00 TRSE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9194

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO V6811

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: ECHEVERRRIA COMMENTS ON JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING

1. IN NINETY MINUTE PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 30

N KUWAIT,

THE HALFWAY POINT ON HIS 42-DAY, 14-NATION RAMBLE, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRRIA FIELDDED QUESTIONS ON A LONG LIST OF TOPICS AND GENERALLY SUMMED UP THE PROGRESS OF HIS TRIP TO DATE. HIS HANDLING OF KEY QUESTIONS FOLLOWS IN SUMMARY FASHION:

2. ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT

A. ASKED REPEATEDLY ABOUT POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS VISIT TO ISRAEL, ECHEVERRRIA SAID MEXICO WAS NOT GOING TO "MEDIATE" NOR STLVE ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEMS BUT WAS SERIOUSLY GOING TO STUDY SITUATION AS A RESPONSIBLE NEMBER OF UNITED NATIONS. NOTWITHSTANDING STRONGLY HELD VIEW OF ITS NEIGHBOR TO THE NORTH, MEXICO WAS GOING TO DEVELOP ITS UNCLASSIFIED

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OWN INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS AND DRAW ITS OWN

CONCLUSIONS.

B. ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD STAY IN TEL AVIV OR JERUSALEM, ECHEVERRRIA SAID HE RECOGNIZED POLITICAL IMPLICATION OF QUESTION BUT FOR MEXICO THERE WAS NO IMPORTANT DISTINCTION. HCBB

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SLY YF#WITHIN ISRAEL
WOULD BE UP TO ISRAELI OFFICIALS; HE HOPED TO VISIT BOTH CITIES AS WELL AS COUNTRYSIDE, LABOR CENTERS, AND HOLY SHRINES.

C. ECHEVERRRIA FORCEFULLY AFFIRMED GOM OPPOSITION TO ISRAEL'S EXPULSION FROM UNITED NATIONS, ADDING THAT IF ILLEGAL SEIZURE OF TERRITORIES WERE USED AS CRITERIA MANY OTHER NATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE EXPELLED AS WELL, BEGINNING WITH SOME GREAT POWERS. ISRAEL'S EXPULSION WOULD ONLY MAKE IT APPEAR THE VICTIM IN THE CASE. U.N. SHOULD REMAIN FORUM FOR DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATION OF SUCH PROBLEMS.

D. PRESSED FOR HIS IDEAS ON AN EVENTUAL MIDEAST SOLUTIONS, ECHEVERRRIA SAID THE ANSWER WAS ALL RIGHT THERE IN (WHAT ELSE?) THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES, AND HE WHIPPED OUT A COPY AND QUOTED AT LENGTH FROM ART. 16: NATIONS WHICH PRACTICE COLONIALISM, AGGRESSION, OCCUPATION ETC., ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPENSATING AFFECTED PEOPLES, FOR DAMAGES CAUSED. "NO ARAB COUNTRY, NOR THE PALESTINIANS, HAS YET SPOKEN OUT SO FULLY AS DOES THIS ARTICLE OF THE CHARTER WHICH THEY'VE ALL SIGNED."

E. RE PALESTINIANS, ECHEVERRRIA SAID HE WANTED TO HEAR ARAFAT'S ARGUMENTS, JUST AS HE WANTED TO HEAR ISRAEL'S. AT SAME TIME, HE CONCEDED THAT MEXICO HAD ALREADY MADE UP ITS MIND IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINIANS' "HISTORIC RIGHTS", EVEN THOUGH ALL ACTS MIGHT NOT YET BE IN AND EVEN THOUGH "HISTORIC RIGHTS" REMAINED TO BE CLEARLY DEFINED.

3. CUBA SANCTIONS AND CUBAN BEHAVIOR
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A. ECHEVERRRIA CALLED 16TH MFM'S "FREEDOM OF ACTION" RESOLUTION "A VERY POSITIVE MEASURE, ONE WE HAD BEEN HOPING FOR." ADDED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY FOR NATIONS OF AMERICA TO WORK OUT FREER AND MORE EQUITABLE RELATIONSHIPS, AND MFM ACTION REPRESENTED STEP FORWARD. "DISTINGUISHED CUBAN OFFICIALS," HE SAID, HAD LATERLY STATED THAT CUBA'S PERIOD OF EXPORTING ITS REVOLUTION

WAS OVER, AND ACTION TAKEN AT SAN JOSE MEANT OTHER GOVERNMENTS SHARED THE SAME VIEW.

B. ECHEVERRIA SAID HE HOPED DECISION WOULD LEAD TOWARD MORE BALANCED COEXISTENCE AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NO INTERVENTION IN CUBA'S AFFAIRS EITHER BY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES OR BY U.S. ADDED THERE SHOULD BE RESPECT ON BOTH (UNDERSCORE BOTH) SIDES, "SINCE REVOLUTIONS REALLY ARE NOT EXPORTABLE" AND PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENTS HAVE TO GROW OUT OF THE DISTINCT, IDIOSYNCRATIC CHARACTER OF EACH COUNTRY.

C. PRESIDENT EXPECTED INTERCHANGE WITH CUBA TO BE BENEFICIAL TO BOTH SIDES. CUBA'S PROGRESS UNDER REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT WOULD NOW BE MORE WIDELY KNOWN AND OBJECTIVELY APPRECIATED ELSEWHERE IN LATIN AMERICA. WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL FOR CUBA TO LEARN OF DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCES IN OTHER LATIN COUNTRIES, SINCE CUBA IMPORTS MANY PRODUCTS IT HAS NOT YET LEARNED TO PRODUCE FOR ITSELF.

D. ECHEVERRIA GAVE GENEROUS PRAISE TO FOREIGN SECRETARIAT STAFF FOR HAVING PERSISTED OVER THE YEARS IN EFFORTS TO END SANCTIONS AND FINALLY SUCCEEDING.

4. UNITED NATIONS AND SECGENSHIP

A. NAMED BY ONE NEWSMAN AS A CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED WALDHEIM, ECHEVERRIA ADMITTED THAT HE HAD SEEN REPORTS THAT HE WAS IN THE RUNNING. BUT HE NOTED THAT NO ONE HAD ACTUALLY NOMINATED HIM, THAT WALDHEIM'S TERM WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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FAR FROM OVER, AND THAT WALDHEIM "WHO IS DOING A GOOD JOB" MIGHT EVEN BE REELECTED.

B. U.N. AS AN ORGANIZATION, ADDED ECHEVERRIA, BADLY NEEDED STRENGTHENING SO THAT ITS DECISIONS COULD BE IMPLEMENTED. UNFORTUNATELY, IT WEAKENED U.N. FURTHER TO HAVE PEOPLE ON ONE HAND -- LIKE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE -- THREATEN TO CUT OFF ITS ECONOMIC SUPPORT, AND ON OTHER HAND NATIONS CALLING FOR EXPULSION OF ONE OF ITS MEMBER. UNITED NATIONS MUST BE STRENGTHENED SO THAT GRAVE WORLD PROBLEMS WILL NOT BE WITHHELD FROM ITS JURISDICTION, AS HAS RECENTLY BEEN THE CASE. FURTHER WEAKENING WILL MEAN THAT ONLY AVAILABLE SOLUTION TO THESE PROBLEMS WILL BE THOSE OF FORCE, INCLUDING NUCLEAR FORCE.

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C. UNITED NATIONS IS NO LONGER MERELY A BIG
MEETING PLACE IN NEW YORK BUT
FALEMPLEX OF VALUABLE
INSTRUMENTS WHICH POOR COUNTRIES MUST LEARN TO USE
TO THEIR ADVANTAGE. WHY WEAKEN IT BY EXPELLING MEMBERS,
WHEN IT COST SO MUCH WORK TO BUILD, AND WHEN IT CAN
BE PUT TO USE TO SOLVE THIRD WORLD PROBLEMS? "INTERESTED
PARTIES" HAVE ASSERTED THAT U.N. HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A
FORUM OF CONFRONTATION RULED BY "TYRANNY OF THE MAJORITY."
WE MUST COMBAT THIS ASSERTION, HE SAID.

5. TRIP'S PURPOSE: A THIRD WORLD SELA?

A. ECHEVERRIA REMARKED THAT HE HAD SET OUT ON 14-NATION
TRIP OVER OBJECTIONS OF MANY OF HIS COLLABORATORS AND
DESPITE CRITICISM THAT MEXICO WOULD DERIVE LITTLE BENEFIT
FROM IT. BUT RESULTS AT MID-POINT SEEMED WHOLLY POSITIVE.
HE HAD NOT BROUGHT SUITCASE FULL OF MEXICAN MERCHANDISE TO
SELL, NOR WAS HE GOING ABOUT WITH OUTSTRETCHED HAND ASKING
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FOR LOAND. MEXICAN INDUSTRIALISTS, BANKERS, TECHNICIANS, STUDENTS., ETC., WOULD COME LATER TO BROADER CONTACT HE HAS INITIATED.

B. BUT ECHEVERRIA'S PURPOSE AND MESSAGE WERE MORE TRANSCENDENTAL: MEXICO, HE SAID, IS SKETCHING OUTLINES OF AN ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION WHICH IT SEES AS INCREASINGLY NEEDED AMONG THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES TO STRENGTHEN THEIR NEGOTIATING POSITIONS. JUST AS MEXICO PROPOSED ECONOMIC SYSTEM FOR LATIN AMERICA (SELA), WHICH LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS ARE JUST NOW LAUNCHING, IT HOPED TO PROPOSE SIMILAR THIRD WORLD ORGANIZATION WHICH -- BEYOND GENERAL PURPOSES OF NON-ALIGNED GROUP AND G-77 -- MIGHT HAVE SOME PRACTICAL CONTENT. (COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF THIS PARTICULAR BRAINSTORM, BUT PROBABLY NOT THE LAST) JOVA

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